

**Government/Sociology 128JT**

**The University Blacklist**

Kravis Center 321

Professors Shields & Zuckerman

**Office Hours:**

Shields, Thursdays, 3-5 (Kravis Center 238)

Zuckerman, Fridays, 8-11 (Scott Hall 211)

Like every age, ours has its dangerous ideas. Hundreds of disinvited movements have sprung up on American college campuses in recent years in reaction to ideas some find threatening, offensive, or dangerous. These varied movements have targeted a broad spectrum of influential intellectuals--from classical liberals like Ayaan Hirsi Ali to leftists like Angela Davis to conservatives like David Horowitz. By exploring books by many such disinvited authors, this course explores contemporary contention over free speech, provides a window into the dangerous ideas of our time, and will help students think more deeply about the virtues and costs of censoring them.

**Assigned Books and Documentaries:**

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, *Infidel* (Free Press, 2006)

David Horowitz, *Radical Son* (Touchstone 1998)

Milo Yiannopoulos, *Dangerous* (Dangerous Books, 2017)

Michael Moore, *Fahrenheit 11-9* and *Sicko*\*

Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (Mariner, 2008)

Charles Murray, *Coming Apart* (Crown Forum, 2013)

Alice Dreger, *Galileo's Middle Finger* (Penguin Press, 2015)

Laura Kipnis, *Unwanted Advances: Sexual Paranoia Comes to Campus* (Harper, 2017)

Caroline Glick, *The Israeli Solution* (Crown Forum, 2014)\*

Noam Chomsky, *Gaza in Crisis* (Haymarket Books, 2010)

Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* (Seven Stories Press, 2003)

Heather MacDonald, *War on Cops* (Encounter, 2016)

**\* Need to Purchase on Amazon**

**Grading:***Class Dinners (5% of grade)*

Attendance is mandatory for *at least* two dinners

*Class Participation (25% of grade)*

Class participation includes mandatory attendance, keeping up on the readings and being prepared to discuss them in class, offering your informed opinions in class discussions, asking questions, answering questions, and arguing points that are specifically related to the reading.

*First Paper (20% of grade)*

Due on November 8th

*Final Paper (30% of grade)*

Due on December 20th

*Reading Quizzes (20% of grade)*

There will be 12 in-class reading quizzes during the semester. They will take place at the beginning of class and include a few short-answer questions. They will ask about the central arguments and ideas in the assigned reading(s) for that class. You will have 15 minutes to answer them. Each reading response is graded out of 2 points.

**GRADING RUBRIC:**

2 = EXCELLENT. Demonstrates an exceptionally high level of understanding of the material.

1 = GOOD. Demonstrates a solid understanding of the material. Analysis is mostly on target but contains one or more important errors, omissions, or irrelevancies.

0 = POOR. Demonstrates a limited understanding of the material. Analysis misses the main point and/or contains several important errors, omissions, or irrelevancies.

We will drop your two lowest scores, including zeros resulting from unexcused absences, so that only 10 scores count toward your course grade. Altogether, reading responses are worth 20% of your course grade (10 reading responses x 2 points each = 20 course points). Students with excused absences (which require a note from the dean's office or your coach) may schedule a make-up reading response, which will consist of different questions about the same set of readings.

**Class Rules:**

1. No open laptops during class! No texting in class! All electronic devices should be turned off.
2. CMC and Pitzer take academic honesty and intellectual property rights seriously. Cheating, plagiarism, and misuse of sources will result in a failing grade and referral to the Academic Standards Committee/Judicial Council.

**Course Schedule:**

Introduction and Overview  
(September 6)

**I. The Free Speech Controversy**

John Stuart Mill, “Chapter 2: Of the Liberty of Thought and Discussion” from *On Liberty*, at <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3li3/mill/liberty.pdf>

Herbert Marcuse, “Repressive Tolerance,” in *A Critique of Pure Tolerance* (1965), at <https://www.marcuse.org/herbert/pubs/60spubs/1965MarcuseRepressiveToleranceEng1969edOcr.pdf>

Steven Pinker, “Preface to Dangerous Ideas,” *Edge*:

[https://www.edge.org/conversation/steven\\_pinker-preface-to-dangerous-ideas](https://www.edge.org/conversation/steven_pinker-preface-to-dangerous-ideas)

Jason Stanley, “What John Stuart Mill Got Wrong About Free Speech,” at <http://bostonreview.net/politics-philosophy-religion/jason-stanley-what-mill-got-wrong-about-freedom-of-speech>

David Lowenthal, “The Case for Censorship,” *Weekly Standard*, at <https://www.weeklystandard.com/david-lowenthal/the-case-for-censorship>

Arianne Shahvisi, “From Academic Freedom to Academic Responsibility” (on Sakai)

Aaron Hanlon, “The Decline of Debate on College Campuses,” at <https://newrepublic.com/article/146427/decline-debate-college-campuses>

Jeffrey Sachs, “There is No Campus Free Speech Crisis,” Niskanen Center, at <https://niskanencenter.org/blog/there-is-no-campus-free-speech-crisis-a-close-look-at-the-evidence/>

Musa Al-Gharbi, “Actually, Students Seem Substantially Less Free than the General Public,” Heterodox Academy (on Sakai)

“My Effing First Amendment,” *This American Life* podcast:

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/645/my-effing-first-amendment>

(September 13)

## **II. Apostates**

Hirsi Ali, *Infidel*, Chapters 2, 3, 5 (pgs.79-88), 6 (pgs. 102-122), 9-11, 12 (pgs.220-226), 13 (pgs.237-251), 14, 16, 17, Epilogue (pgs.346-350)  
(September 20)

Class Dinner at Union on Yale at 6pm  
(September 26)

Horowitz, *Radical Son*, pp. 1-3, 35-44, 75-86, 157-170, 176-178, 188-202, 221-280, 295-307, 333-351.  
(September 27)

## **III. Provocateurs**

Milo, *Dangerous*, pp. 1-50, 153-88, 211-39.  
Watch: "The Absolute Best of Milo Yiannopoulos," at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T\\_P0I4szxA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T_P0I4szxA)  
(October 4)

Moore, *Fahrenheit 11-9\** and *Sicko\**  
(October 11)

Class Dinner at Union on Yale at 6pm  
(October 17)

## **IV. Gender**

Dreger, *Galileo's Middle Finger*, pp. 1-139, 257-292.  
Skype Guest: Alice Dreger  
(October 18)

Kipnis, *Unwanted Advances*, entire book.  
Classroom Guest: Laura Kipnis  
(October 25)

## **V. Israel and Palestine**

*Recommended videos on history of conflict:*

Youtube: "How the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Began | History" History Channel, at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bno1m1zhIWs>

Youtube: "Conflict in Israel and Palestine: Crash Course World History 223" by John Green, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLIMhiw>

Youtube: "The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history" from Vox,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYZjOuUnIU>

Glick, *The Israeli Solution*, preface (ix.-xv, xiii-xiv), chapters 1-5, 7, 12 and 13.  
(November 1)

Chomsky, *Gaza in Crisis*, chapters 2, 5, 10, and 11.

Finkelstein, *Image and Reality of the Israeli-Palestine Conflict* (on Sakai)  
(November 8)

## **VI. Darwinian Intellectuals, Left and Right**

Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, preface, and chapters 2,7,8,9  
(November 15)

Murray, *Coming Apart*, prologue, chapters 1-5, 7-9, 15 and 16.  
(November 22)

Thanksgiving Break  
(November 29)

Class Dinner at Union on Yale at 6pm  
(December 5)

## **VII. Crime and Punishment**

Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* chapters 1-6.  
(December 6)

MacDonald, *The War on Cops*, preface, intro, chapters 1, 3-6, 9, 12-13, 19, 22.  
(December 13)